

4412(3).

MINISTER OF HEALTH

WHITSTABLE URBAN DISTRICT

25 JAN 1966
TROPICAL MEDICINE

1965

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

In Office 1965:

Chairman of the Council, Councillor J. E. Bryon, J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor D. P. Chaffey

Clerk - R. A. R. Gray, LL.B., Solicitor

Treasurer - F. Tomlinson, F.I.M.T.A., A.R.V.A.

Engineer and Surveyor

B. E. Hardy, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.

Chief Public Health Inspector

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Malcolm Smith Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Major General, Retired)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report covering the year 1964.

The population showed a 4% increase in the year, of 800 to a total of 20,340. There was also an increase in births and decrease in deaths resulting in a smaller margin of excess deaths over births. The birth rate increased to 16.3 per 1,000 (England and Wales 18.4) which when corrected for population make-up gave a rate of 22.7 for comparison with the national figure. This confirms previous indications that the balance of age groups is gradually moving away from the preponderance of elderly.

The death rate also declined over the previous year to 18.4 per 1,000 (England and Wales 11.3), corrected for comparison to 11.2.

Rather surprisingly the incidence of Measles was above that for 1963, for we expected the biennial epidemic sequence to give a low level in 1964.

Sewerage and sewage disposal remained in prominence as a public health problem.

Detailed statistics and tables are found at the end of the report, which is prepared jointly with the Chief Public Health Inspector.

May we, from the Public Health Department, express our thanks for the co-operation and willing help of the other Officers and to the Councillors for their interest and willingness to receive our advice.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Water Supply

No change occurred in the general arrangements fully described for 1963 and the only water mains extensions were to meet the needs of new housing developments and the industrial estate in Swalecliffe. No shortages occurred during the year.

Dwellings supplied from public water mains	8,690
Dwellings not so supplied	14
Population supplied from public water mains	20,320
Population otherwise supplied	20
Total dwellings in the district	8,704
Total population in the district	20,340

Water Sampling

		Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
		Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory Water Undertakings	Raw	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Treated	5	5	-	5	5	-
Private sources piped to dwellings	Raw	2	2	-	2	2	-
	Treated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private sources	Raw	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Treated	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total: 7 water samples for bacteriological examination.
7 water samples for chemical examination.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The extension of the sewer has resulted in the discontinuance of several cesspools but there is no immediate prospect of the cesspool emptying service being discontinued. During the year 30 cesspools were abolished and 10 new ones added, leaving a total of 468. Considerable difficulty was

Continued/over

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (Continued)

experienced in the emptying of a number of cesspools on unmade roads and there were prolonged periods when vehicles could not physically reach the properties concerned because of the adverse road conditions. The only effective answer is the making up and sewerage of the roads as soon as possible. The total number of cesspool emptyings during the year was 2,420 which compares with 2,260 the previous year. A surface water sewer was completed in South Street.

It was necessary to draw the Council's attention to the state of certain public sewers, especially those at Yorkletts, which were overflowing in wet weather and to emphasise that the resulting back-draining of their contents into private premises constituted a serious public health nuisance.

HOUSING

No houses were demolished in clearance areas during the year but three families totalling four persons were displaced from unfit houses. Two houses were demolished as a result of formal action under Section 17(i) of the Housing Act 1957, and two houses were closed as unfit.

After informal action 56 houses were rendered fit by the owners. In no case was it necessary for the Local Authority to do the work. Formal action was taken in seven cases under Public Health Acts and in two cases under Section 9/16 of the Housing Act 1957. There were no unfit houses in temporary use in the district. No houses in clearance areas were purchased in the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	..	166
Number of inspections made	.. .. .	455
Number inspected and recorded	.. .. .	2
Number found unfit for habitation	.. .. .	2
Number found not in all respects fit	.. .. .	65

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were discovered during the year and liaison was maintained with the Housing Manager on all reported overcrowding cases which justified Council assistance but which did not come within the legal definition.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

It was not necessary to invoke the power contained in the Housing Act to make any Management Orders in connection with this type of development and no serious problems were encountered.

Improvement and Conversion of Houses

This aspect of housing is dealt with by the Surveyor who has supplied the following information:-

1. Discretionary Grants

Applications	(a)	received	14.
	(b)	approved	13.
Total cost of works	£7,289.	17.	4.
Amount of Grants made	3,694.	6.	2.

2. Standard Grants

Applications	(a)	received	29.
	(b)	approved	29.
Total cost of works	£6,229.	1.	8.
Amount of Grants made	2,750.	14.	5.

Rent Act, 1957

There were 2 certificates of disrepair current at the beginning of 1964 which remained uncanceled.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

23 sites are licensed in the area providing accommodation for 1,602 caravans and 239 chalets. All are subject to conditions which are based on model standards issued by the Ministry. 168 routine inspections were made and no major problems were encountered.

New Houses - 1964

(a)	Total number of houses erected in 1964	...	409.
(b)	by Local Authority	...	46.
(c)	by other persons	...	363.

NOISE

A few complaints were received concerning noise which were dealt with without recourse to formal procedure. Seven concerned industrial premises. Co-operation was received from the management and the noise levels were reduced by adjustment of plant and limiting the times of working as some nuisance was due to the unusual hours of working. The acquisition of a noise level meter was of much practical assistance.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Intermittent complaints concerning one chimney required observations to be taken but statutory action was not justified. Dust complaints centred on the harbour area and it was realised that lying dust contributed to the trouble. Action taken by the Council to introduce vacuum road sweeping in the area should improve the situation.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Under the Agriculture (Safety, Health, Welfare Provisions) Act 1956 farms subject to the provisions of the Act were inspected.

Inspections under the Factories Act 1961

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	11	6	-	-
(2) Factories not under (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	94	62	3	-
(3) Other premises in which Local Authority enforces Sect. 7.	-	15	-	-
Total	105	83	3	-

	<u>Defects</u>		<u>Referred by H.M. Insp.</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Unreasonable temperature		1	-
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	3	3	-
Total	5	6	-

No prosecutions were instituted.

Outworkers The only outworkers notified or found were 6 makers of wearing apparel. (Section 133(1)(c)).

SHOPS ACT

The department acts under powers delegated to the District Council by the County Council, as well as under local orders.

Inspections are made primarily under public health and food hygiene activity when regard is given also to the Shops Act requirements. Such inspections totalled 531 of which 146 were specifically for Shops Act purposes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no recognized offensive trades in the town.

FOOD

There are approximately 300 food premises in the area of which number 128 are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 which deals with the manufacture and sale of ice cream, sausages, etc.,

Routine visits and visits forthwith on complaint are made, 577 such visits being made during the year. A number of improvements were effected and infringements that were encountered were of a minor nature which were dealt with upon request and without the necessity to resort to formal procedure. Regular visits are made to the Harbour to inspect imported food and check compliance with Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations.

Slaughtering needs are met by the use of the Canterbury Abattoir where full time meat inspection is carried out and arrangements have at all times proved satisfactory.

There are 3 registered dairies and 46 registered distributors of milk. One firm ceased pasteurisation of milk during the year.

107 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream and 2 for manufacture and sale. 18 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, 16 being placed in Grade 1 and 2 in Grade 3.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One firm is registered for the use of such materials in upholstery etc., Articles come up to British Standard specification and bear the kite mark.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS (continued)

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three premises are licensed and inspected. The standards imposed are those recommended by the Royal Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

No premises had registered or notified their intention to do so by the end of 1964.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

Approved boiling or sterilization plant is required by anyone collecting waste food. Three licences are in force in the area and 14 inspections were made of the plant used.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Visits were carried out to investigate the contacts and disinfection arrangements of notified cases. In the case of food handlers in contact with Scarlet Fever or Dysentery and some other diseases precautionary measures are necessary as advised by the Medical Officer of Health.

Chemical disinfection (Formalin) can be carried out at the Disinfecting Plant, Station Road, when considered necessary but with modern home facilities the dangers of transmission through articles of bedding, clothing or books can, in most infections, be overcome by home cleansing.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine inspections and investigation of complaints are carried out by the General Assistant, in accordance with recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The sewers are periodically dealt with by test baiting to ascertain the degree of infestation, followed by such treatment as is required. This has the effect of minimising surface infestations.

A summary of the work carried out appears on the following page.

RODENT CONTROL - (contd.,)

	Local Autho- rity	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3.	Agri- cul- tural
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. No. of properties in L.A.'s district	35	8,355	1,137	9,527	16
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of notification	-	108	7	115	2
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common rat Major	-	-	-	-	-
Common rat Minor	-	100	6	106	1
House mouse Major	-	-	-	-	-
House mouse Minor	-	8	1	9	1
3. No. of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	7	51	12	70	2
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common rat Major	-	-	-	-	-
Common rat Minor	5	12	-	17	1
House mouse Major	-	-	-	-	-
House mouse Minor	2	3	-	5	1
4. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	194	329	12	535	8
5. Number of infested properties in Sects. (2) and (3) treated by the L.A.	7	123	7	137	4

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Department is responsible for the various cleansing services including refuse collection and disposal, cesspool emptying, street sweeping and litter collections.

The refuse collection service is virtually a kerbside collection but the Council's recently introduced policy of changing from side loading to compression type vehicles will undoubtedly pave the way for back door collection.

Refuse is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Yorkletts, consolidation being effected by means of a Bristol Angledozer. Waste paper is collected concurrently with domestic refuse and a once-weekly special collection from business premises is also made.

Street sweeping was carried out by manual staff but towards the end of the year consideration was given to the use of a mechanical sweeper. A practical demonstration of a suction sweeper convinced Members of the desirability of acquiring such a machine which was placed on order and is now in operation.

Litter collections were carried out by temporary staff employed during the summer on various sections of the beach, ranging from Marine Crescent, Tankerton to the Sportsman Hotel at Seasalter. A large number of litter bins are distributed throughout the area but it would seem that there can never be enough; the main problem being not the siting of litter bins but the emptying of them. Paper sacks in mesh holders has been introduced, which has proved successful particularly in the vicinity of the beach huts where litter is often of a putrescible nature and therefore more adequately protected by this method.

GENERAL INSPECTION

Details of inspections made are as follows:-

<u>Food:</u>	Milk Regulations	..	..	..	..	10
	Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	..	..	..	..	46
	Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	99
	Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	163
	Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	120
	Food Preparation	..	..	..	..	94
	Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	21
	Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	24

GENERAL INSPECTION (Continued)

Dwellinghouses (P.H.A.) 1st Visit	..	..	..	..	166
Dwellinghouses (Housing Act)	..	..	..	..	126
Insect Pests	..	..	..	..	15
Camping Sites	..	..	..	..	168
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	..	..	..	..	139
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	455
Drainage	..	..	..	..	346
Keeping of Animals	..	..	..	..	24
Air Pollution	..	..	..	..	67
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	543
Heating Appliances	..	..	..	..	2
Sea and Water Pollution	..	..	..	..	35
Waste Foods	..	..	..	..	14
Port Health	..	..	..	..	74
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	90
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	13
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	42
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	1
Factories Act	..	..	..	..	83
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	146
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	41
Unsound Food	..	..	..	..	76
Bedding and Disinfection	..	..	..	..	3
Rent Act	..	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	109
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	81
Offices and Shops	..	..	..	..	266
Noise	..	..	..	..	53

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Ninety visits were made in carrying out the administration of the Act and Regulations relating to the storage of petroleum spirit.

Licences are issued on an annual basis, 31 being in force during the year under review.

All new installations are examined and tested during construction and are required to conform to the model code of principles of construction and licensing conditions recommended by the Home Office.

Liaison is maintained with the Kent Fire Brigade and annual joint inspections are made of all premises prior to re-licensing.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into force during the year and 217 premises were registered with the Council comprising 55 offices, 138 retail shops, 6 wholesale shops, 15 catering establishments and 3 fuel storage depots, employing a total of 396 males and 581 females.

The inspections carried out in 1964 resulted in 243 items being discovered requiring attention, which were drawn to the notice of the persons concerned.

SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No orders were sought under this section during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The district was free from any serious outbreaks, although the occurrence of 299 notified cases of measles was unexpected as 1963 had been accepted as an epidemic year and a lull was anticipated until 1966.

Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, all males, and 2 cases of other forms of tuberculosis.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Town in July and examined 25% of the civilian population over the age of 15 years. The cases discovered represented a rate of 3 per 10,000 population of active tuberculosis and 120 per 10,000 inactive cases. The rate for other conditions discovered was equivalent to 12 per 10,000. The acceptance rate was an increase of 986 over the previous survey in 1960 totalling 3,169 persons.

Immunisation and Vaccination (N.H.S. scheme)

The County Medical Officer supplied the following figures for vaccination and immunisation.

Only 173 children, aged 1 year, received primary vaccination against smallpox.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under 5	Primary Protection	249	Booster	171
5 - 10	" "	1	"	122
11 - 15	" "	-	"	4
<u>Total</u>		<u>250</u>		<u>297</u>

Whooping Cough

Under 5	Primary Protection	246
5 - 10	" "	Nil
11 - 15	" "	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -- (contd.,)

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Under 5	262		
5 - 15	22	4th Booster	154.
Over 15	14		

APPENDIX I

STATISTICS (Vital and Morbid) 1964

Registrar General's population figure for mid-1964 = 20,340.

Live Births = 332 Male = 171 Female = 161
England
& Wales

Live Births rate per 1000 population 16.3 ... 18.4
 (Corrected for population make up = 22.7)

Stillbirths = 4 Infant deaths = 2 (all legitimate)

Total Live and Stillbirths = 336

Stillbirths per 1000 live and stillbirths = 12 ... 16.3

Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births - Total = 6 ... 20.0

Infant deaths in first week = 1

Perinatal Mortality rate (S.B. and deaths under 1 week per
 1,000 live and stillbirths) = 15

Illegitimate live births = 23

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births = 7%

Deaths all causes = 374 Male = 167 Female = 207

Death rate per 1000 population = 18.4 ... 11.3
 (Corrected by population factor = 11.2)

Deaths from Cancer of Lung and Bronchus:-

Total = 17 Male = 13 Female = 4

APPENDIX IICAUSES OF ALL DEATHS

CAUSE	1963	1964
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	12
" " Lung, Bronchus	15	17
" " Breast	8	5
" " Uterus	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	28	52
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	6	2
Diabetes	4	4
Vasc: Lesions of Nervous System	67	56
Coronary Disease, Angina	65	75
Hypertension with Heart Disease	11	5
Other Heart Diseases	62	42
Other Circulatory Diseases	29	26
Influenza	6	-
Pneumonia	16	16
Bronchitis	14	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum	10	5
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	3	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	5
Congenital Malformation	3	1
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	30	19
Motor Vehicle accidents	3	3
Other accidents	6	2
Suicide	2	5
TOTAL	398	374
Male	187	167
Female	211	207

APPENDIX II - (contd.,)AGES OF DEATH

	Under 4 weeks	- 1 year	- 4 yrs	- 14 yrs	- 24 yrs	- 34 yrs	- 44 yrs	- 54 yrs	- 64 yrs	- 74 yrs	75 and over
Male	1	-	-	-	2	2	6	11	24	47	74
Female	-	1	2	-	1	-	1	6	16	44	136
Total	1	1	2	-	3	2	7	17	40	91	210

APPENDIX IIIINFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASE	Quarters of year				By Age Groups					Total	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	0-4	5-9	10-14	15+	65+	1964	1963
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	4	-	5	-	-	-	5	3
Measles	1	-	18	280	138	152	6	2	1	299	268
Whooping Cough	3	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4	1
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Polio.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS	By Age Groups				Total	
	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	1964	1963
Respiratory						
Male	1	3	1	1	6	1
Female	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Forms						
Male	-	1	-	-	1	-
Female	-	-	1	-	1	-

Number on T.B. Register - 31st December 1964
 (1963 figures in parenthesis)

Respiratory: Male 76 (80) Female 36 (40)

Other Forms: Male 10 (9) Female 26 (24)

